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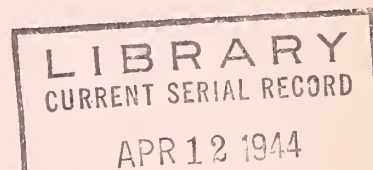
## WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

A SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS  
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Among high lights of the summary this week are reports on food preservation; labor-saving methods for home and farm; Victory Gardens; and care and repair of farm and household equipment.

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ALABAMA  
March 15, 1944

Food-preservation.- To standardize techniques of using canning equipment, six food-preservation equipment clinics have been conducted. These were 2-day training meetings for home demonstration agents and assistant agents. Agents brought pressure canner, sealer, gauge tester, thermometer, and can sealer. Representative of pressure cooker company discussed pressure canners for 1944, how to use Victory canner, how to test gauges and valves. Each agent tested gauges and valves. On second day agents learned to repair and adjust can sealers. Food-preservation specialist discussed small canning equipment and problems in canning. Representative of glass-jar company discussed problems of jar manufacture, outlook for 1944, and how to use jar tops properly.

Canned food storage is being greatly emphasized as wartime "must" because of rapidly increasing quantity of foods being canned. In 1943 home demonstration agents and leaders devoted 3,085 days to problem of food storage and conducted 1,861 demonstrations. Food-storage facilities were improved by 19,123 families in 1,505 communities as result of program.

Clothing program.- Alabama Extension is endeavoring to meet wartime clothing needs of families through intensive conservation program, which began in 1943. Program has been broken down into specific demonstrations which reach both rural and urban, club and nonclub families throughout State. Demonstrations include renovation of coats and dresses, darning and mending, care and selection of shoes, cleaning and adjusting sewing machine, and cleaning and storing clothes. To date, 1,181,633 garments have been renovated at cost of \$48,088, a saving of \$399,327 on family wardrobe. Also, 5,698 families were helped by 370 dry-cleaning clinics; 7,935 families by 485 renovation clinics; and 6,203 families by 2,715 sewing-machine clinics. Farm families report total saving of \$1,594,228 from clothing program.

Wartime home management.- Much emphasis is being given to care and repair of all types of household equipment, and special attention to wood ranges, kitchen utensils, sharpening and storing knives, refrigerators, and repair and care of electric

extension cords. By end of 1944 home demonstration clubs in practically every county in Alabama will have given month's study to problem of making household equipment last longer. Last year, in 34 counties, 1,388 club demonstrations were given, and 27,982 pieces of home equipment were repaired as result of program.

Alabama farm families are hard pressed because of labor situation. Homemakers have many more jobs to do with less time and help. Everything possible is being done to help them to adjust themselves to these problems. Leadership-training schools on short cuts in good housekeeping were held in 7 counties last year and monthly demonstrations in 11 counties. As result, 9,654 families were assisted with time-management problems, and 23,982 families improved housekeeping methods. This year home demonstration clubs in 23 counties are studying "streamlined housekeeping." They select typical kitchen job (biscuit making is popular one), observe job done in average kitchen, making notes of all motions, steps, and stoops made. When job is completed, group reviews and discusses location and arrangement of supplies and equipment needed to do that particular job. Then suggestions are made for rearranging to save any motions, steps, and stoops that group decides are unnecessary. In many instances supplies and equipment are merely rearranged in good kitchen storage space already available.

Time and labor situation has also aggravated problem of safety and fire hazards in home and on farm. Stress is put on home safety and fire prevention, on State-wide basis. Last year 1,354 days were devoted to home safety by home demonstration agents and leaders, who gave 1,213 demonstrations in 853 home demonstration clubs and 734 4-H clubs in 1,182 communities. Each of 15,205 families eliminated at least a few home accident hazards.

#### TEXAS

March 1, 1944

Field crops.- Increase in acre yields and total production of peanuts and sweet-potatoes was discussed at two special meetings of county agricultural agents in northeast Texas where these are important crops. Texas acreage goal for peanuts is 1,315,000, of 1/5 of that of Nation. For sweetpotatoes it is 100,000, or 1/10 of goal for Nation. Both are higher than in 1943. Steps in producing these and important feed crops, along with good seed, chemical seed treatment, legume seed inoculation, proper use of fertilizers, and cultural methods, were discussed with county agents at district meetings in east Texas and Coastal Bend areas, and with negro county agents at three district meetings. Need for producing as much food as possible was heavily emphasized at all meetings. Contact with county agents was supplemented by radio talks and press releases on hybrid corn, fertilizers, and sweetclover for soil improvement. Planned radio talks include seed treatment for disease control and greater yields, and peanut and forage production.

Insect pests.- Joint meetings of extension entomologists and horticulturist with county agents have been held to discuss most effective methods for combating insect pests in gardens and orchards. Practices emphasized were: (1) Start control work early; (2) do thorough job of dusting or spraying plants; (3) repeat applications at 5- to 7-day intervals; (4) apply poison best suited to killing insects present. Extension publication, Save Victory Gardens From Insect Pests, has been revised to accord with current supply of poisons. Series of three illustrated letters on garden insect control has been distributed through county agents. At



meetings with agents in eastern and central Texas, entomologists demonstrated methods for controlling peach-tree borers and scale insects, and discussed spray program for peach and plum trees.

Farm equipment.- Suggestions have been made to county agents that they consult with implement dealers and prepare local newspaper stories advising farmers that parts are available and mechanics ready to repair tractors or other farm equipment and giving other useful information on upkeep of machinery. Number of county agents have done so. Mimeographed document was prepared for general distribution, containing scale drawings outlining safe methods for disposing of waste water from farm homes.

Farm forestry.- Extension farm forester, after surveying damage caused by sleet and ice storm in public and private forests in six east Texas counties, estimated that equivalent of several years' growth of timber was lost. About 150,000 acres held by small owners are in damage area. Farm forester believes damage emphasizes need for change in current cutting methods. He suggested to fieldmen for federally sponsored salvage program, adoption of practice of clear cutting by strips or blocks to permit concentration of sawlogs, stacking pulpwood, burning refuse, or operation of a mobile sawmill. About 100,000,000 board feet of lumber and 1,000,000 cords of pulpwood are expected to be salvaged from damaged area in next 6 months.

Food conservation.- Total of 31 home agents reported meat canning and curing demonstrations given during month, indicating this is current No. 1 job. Ten gave demonstrations on making hominy and 15 on saving food from waste. About 15 home agents report members of home demonstration clubs are checking and repairing canning equipment for 1944 season. People in more than 100 counties are seeking establishment of freezer locker plants. Approximately 30, averaging 350 lockers each, have been contracted for. Many county extension agents have helped to interest people in these projects through demonstrations on preparing food for locker storage, especially meats. Extension publication on freezing food has been revised for printing of 50,000 copies. State conference to plan coordinated food-preservation program to reach all Texas people will be held in March.

Home industries.- Year-end survey shows that during 1943 total of 8,426 Texas farm families in 64 counties spent \$59,178 in cooperative buying of food and household articles, including fruits, vegetables, fruit trees and vines, rosebushes, tin cans, and small home equipment. These and other cooperative transactions resulted from active leadership of home demonstration councils of 104 counties. Each council had committee to study local marketing needs. Studies resulted in setting up program with these objectives: Arranging to produce planned surplus of high-quality farm products to sell; improving methods of selling; buying more economically by pooling orders; and promoting consumer education by teaching homemakers to buy more wisely through learning to read labels correctly, and helping city housewives to know desired quality of farm products. As consequence, 8,041 families in 81 counties report selling \$2,054,000 worth of improved farm products cooperatively and through roadside markets direct to consumers. At 4 homemakers' markets, 50 families sold \$30,000 worth of farm products.

Soil improvement.- Mineral phosphates and nitrate fertilizers are being used on several hundred farms of different soil types in score of Texas counties through cooperation between Texas A. & M. College and Tennessee Valley Authority. In Titus

County, for example, program was begun in 1943 with 86,600 pounds of 60-percent meta-phosphate and  $\frac{1}{2}$  carload of 32-percent ammonium nitrate. Total of 22 farmers, owning 3,309 acres, signed cooperative agreements for 5-year program embracing whole farm. Fourteen cotton demonstrations, using ammonium nitrate for 219 acres, were conducted. First-year yields varied. For 15 corn demonstrations totaling 174 acres, increased yield was 1,325.5 bushels, as compared with similar land not under demonstration.

Wildlife.-- Farm pond management aimed at larger production of fish for home use has first place in extension wildlife and fish conservation program for 1944. Arrangements were made for distribution of fish by State and Federal wildlife agencies in cooperation with county agricultural agents and cooperative game associations. Demonstrations were given in deer trapping and in domestic rabbit production for meat. In 1943, about 40,000 pounds of dressed rabbit meat were produced. In Gillespie County \$75,000 worth of furs and skins will be marketed this year, mostly by men and boys in low-income group. Two Gillespie farm boys trapped more than \$60 worth of furs in one night.

Girls' 4-H Club work.-- Selection of winner of Maggie W. Barry scholarship of \$300 provided by Texas Home Demonstration Association required consideration of all phases of 4-H work done by five district winners. Each of five girls "was able to show effects of her work from the kitchen to the front door, and from the front gate through the barns and the fields." Ability of one to make over and keep her clothing saved money and prolonged attractiveness of her wardrobe and those of her neighbors. Another grew garden plants for sale, as well as capons, rabbits, pigs, and vegetables. Third provided her family with fresh vegetables from her frame garden every day of year and plans to take over substantial part of farm work this spring. Fourth girl paid for piano from sale of turkeys she raised. Fifth equipped her family with wool blankets, home-made wool comforts, and down pillows through her work with sheep and geese.

Negro work.-- Demonstrations to teach negro farm people proper methods of preserving and storing food for market and for home use were carried on through winter months with good results. Farm families attending demonstrations by negro extension agents at Buchanan community of Bowie County now are able to properly butcher, cut, and can beef. Seven Montgomery County farmers were assisted with butchering, and meat cutting and curing. Of 19 hogs butchered, 1,145 pounds of meat were cut for curing. In Lamar County, new idea in production of family food supply is developing. Instead of selling best calves and hogs, farmers are giving more thought to home needs. Silvester Henry of High, head of family of 7, killed his best bull calf for family food.

4-H Club work among negro boys has had achievements of high quality. Main objectives were reached through club meetings, demonstrations, lectures, and mimeographed material. Demonstration in constructing brick brooder was given in Lockhart community of DeWitt County. Brooder, 2 by 4 feet and 16 inches high, requiring about 125 bricks, will be used by Pink Brown for 4-H demonstration with 100 white leghorn pullets. Early this year 40 Guadalupe County 4-H boys started series of demonstrations in building self-feeders for hogs, building and planting hotbeds for tomato and cabbage plants, and building bookcases from apple boxes. Two of boys are garden demonstrators and have hotbeds growing. In Burleson County, of 53 negro boys enrolled in 4-H Club work, 43 received instruction by demonstration in vaccinating hogs. Lyons boys' 4-H Club selected corn as major



demonstration and has ordered hybrid seed. Hogs are major demonstration of 30 4-H boys in Gregg County under direct supervision of negro county agent. Boys follow practices of using good pens, troughs, shelter, and self feeders, together with good pastures and plenty of fresh, clean water.

WASHINGTON  
March 17, 1944

Labor-saving demonstrations.- High light of extension programs recently has been farm labor-saving demonstration tours in eastern and western Washington counties. Attendance at 13 western meetings totaled over 6,200, averaging about 477, and nearly that many are expected for east. Every agent who scheduled "show" is enthusiastic about results, and some are already casting about for similar idea to use next year. Farmers and farmers' wives welcome these demonstrations of labor-saving methods and equipment for farm and home. One grizzled dirt farmer said he "had been coming to extension meetings these past 20 years and this was by far the best one" he had attended.

Victory Gardens.- As gardening time approaches, Extension is making gardens an important wartime program. State-wide Victory Garden committee has been set up, with assistant extension horticulturist as chairman. Extension is printing 60,000 Victory Garden bulletins, and 10,000 are being printed by Washington State Defense Council. State committee will try to set up community garden committees to carry on program on community basis. County agents are being called in for technical advice as well as assistance in organization. Program will include food preservation and storage.

Food preservation.- Canned-foods spoilage clinics, where homemakers may bring products which they suspect or wish to have checked to determine cause of spoilage, are being held throughout State in conjunction with special food-preservation conferences. Conferences are designed to bring community instructors in food preservation up to date.

Farm labor.- Extension director and farm labor supervisor attended regional farm labor conference in Denver, where they met with officials from national office and with directors and emergency farm labor supervisors from other Western States. Series of district farm labor conferences for county agents, home demonstration agents, and county emergency farm labor assistants is now under way. Farm labor assistants in field are working extensively at present on selective service deferment problems. This year Extension will carry on labor program without services of USES.

4-H war bond drive.- Ten thousand Washington State 4-H Club members recently wound up highly successful 2-month war bond drive by going 1 million dollars over their quota to sell \$3,370,555 worth of bonds for financing Liberty Ship. Club members dedicated their ship to former State 4-H'ers serving in war, and named it E. A. Bryan, in honor of late president of Washington State College. Ten top 4-H bond salesmen in contest will participate in launching of "baby" aircraft carrier at Seattle-Tacoma shipyards in April. Barbara Randal, 17, of Yakima, who made 355 sales, and Orville Cunningham, 13, of Belmont, who sold \$149,606 worth of bonds, won top honors. Two-thirds of counties taking part in bond drive went over their quotas. Contest winners in 35 counties participating sold 1 million dollars' worth of bonds by themselves.

Milk program.- National 8-point dairy program to increase milk production is well under way in State. At least 35,000 A. W. I. circulars were sent to counties, and equal number of The How of Your 4-Point Dairy Program is being distributed. Fieldmen in Spokane are planning special dairy campaign.

Pasture improvement.- Along with dairy and livestock programs special emphasis will be placed on growing of more legume hay, pasturage, and grain, and fertilizing to increase quantity and quality of feed.